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Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 STR-07 OES-07 DOE-11
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: FOREST PRODUCTS MISSION

REFS: (A) TOKYO 1893, (B) STATE 30096, (C) STATE 21977,
(D) TOKYO 1422

1. REFTELS A AND B CROSSED DURING TRANSMISSION. WE ASSUME DATES PROPOSED BY WASHINGTON IN REF B (MARCH 3 AND 4) WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOJ AS THEY ALLOW EVEN MORE TIME FOR PREPARATION. WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE DELAY BUT PROPOSED DATES ARE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY FOR WASHINGTON PARTICIPANTS. PLEASE CONFIRM IF THIS SUGGESTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

2. DURING FIRST INTERAGENCY DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON PAPER,
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PAPER PRODUCTS AND FURNITURE WERE DISCUSSED ONLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEFINE PARAMETERS OF THIS EFFORT. THESE PRODUCTS WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE WORK PROGRAM. UNLESS GOJ HAS OTHER SUGGESTIONS WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE PROGRAM WILL BE AS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF REF C, THE STANDARDS ISSUE AS IT APPLIES TO SOLID WOOD PRODUCTS, WITH EMPHASIS ON

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SOFTWOOD LUMBER AND SOFTWOOD PLYWOOD. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS NARROW FOCUS WILL ENHANCE THE POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES. FINANCING WILL BE INTRODUCE AS A POSSIBLE BARRIER TO IMPORTS WHICH PREVENTS JAPANESE FIRMS FROM OBTAINING CREDIT TO FINANCE IMPORTS WHERE FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTS. FYI: A MORE THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE MAY BE MORE APPROPRIATE LATER BUT WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED NOW SO THAT IT IS A PART OF THE AGREED WORK PROGRAM FOR THE GROUP. EMBASSY VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. END FYI.

3. WE REMAIN SOMEWHAT CONFUSED BY EMBASSY COMMENT IN REF. D. THE ONLY REASON FOR SUGGESTING A FORMAT SIMILAR TO THE AUTO STANDARDS TALKS WAS THAT IT PROVIDED A MEETING WHERE

ALL RELEVANT GOJ AGENCIES WERE REPRESENTED AND THOSE WITH DIFFERING VIEWS WERE EXPOSED TO THE PROBLEMS AS OUTLINED BY THE US SIDE. THIS ALLOWED INTERACTION BETWEEN VARIOUS GROUPS IN GOJ AFTER HEARING US CONCERNS. WE ENVISION THAT A SIMILAR BENEFICIAL RESULT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IF THIS MEETING IS STRUCTURED WITH HEAD OF GOJ DELEGATION FROM AN AGENCY WHICH UNDERSTANDS US CONCERNS, WITH OTHER AGENCIES AS A PART OF THE DELEGATION. WE WILL ACCEPT EMBASSY JUDGMENT AS TO THE GOJ PARTICIPANTS AND FORMAT. OUR CONCERN IS THAT THIS BE A FORMAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATION WITH INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION RATHER THAN AN INFORMAL INDUSTRY-TO-INDUSTRY STUDY GROUP. WE BELIEVE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IF CHANGES IN THE STANDARDS AND THE WAY IN WHICH THEY ARE ENFORCED ARE TO COME OUT OF THIS EXERCISE THE EFFORT MUST COME FROM WITHIN THE GOJ AND NOT FROM JAPANESE INDUSTRY.

4. THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WILL NOT BE FINALIZED BEFORE NEXT WEEK. IN ADDITION TO USG REPRESENTATIVES OUTLINED IN REF B, WE EXPECT PARTICIPANTS FROM OREGON'S DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, (DON GOLDY) WASHINGTON STATE'S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL COMMISSION, WESTERN COUNCIL OF LUMBER PRODUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, WESTERN WOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, AMERICA PLYWOOD ASSOCIATION AND AT LEAST TWO OTHERS FROM INDUSTRY. VANCE

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